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Identical letters dated 11 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

On the morning of Saturday, 11 March 2017, armed terrorist groups used high-explosive devices to blow up two civilian buses in the Bab Musalla area of the city of Damascus. A preliminary count indicated that 40 civilians were killed and 120 injured.

That cowardly terrorist attack coincides with the ongoing bombardments by armed terrorist groups of several residential Damascus neighbourhoods with rockets and mortar shells. Those bombardments have killed and injured a large number of civilians, and caused extensive damage to public and private property, including hospitals and schools.

The new attack comes in the wake of recent victories by the Syrian Arab Army against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and associated entities in various regions, including Dayr al-Zawr, Tadmur (Palmyra), northeast Aleppo governorate and Rif Dimashq governorate. It reflects the rejection by those terrorist organizations of the reconciliation processes under way in many regions.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns that terrorist attack and the other vicious crimes being committed by groups associated with the terrorist Al-Qaida and ISIL organizations, which are supported by Governments and regimes known to all. It reiterates that all parties taking part in the Astana and Geneva talks should dissociate themselves from terrorist organizations.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Secretary-General and the Security Council to condemn this cowardly attack, to refrain from providing cover for its perpetrators and the Governments of States that back them, to consolidate international counter-terrorism efforts and to coordinate and cooperate fully with the Syrian Government. It calls on the Security Council to compel the Governments and regimes of the States that support the terrorist groups — above all the regimes of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and certain Western States — to stop all forms of support for those terrorist groups, and in particular to stop providing arms, training, safe havens and financing. The Security Council must compel those regimes to stop making a mockery of international peace and security, to cease their violations of

international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and to fully implement United Nations and Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the resolution adopted at the conclusion of the fifth United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.